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State Budget Agreement Reached

McManus Highlights DNR, DEQ Completion

LANSING – Republican lawmakers and the governor reached an agreement yesterday on a state budget that places heavy emphasis on education, health care, economic and job development and the environment – without raising any new taxes on Michigan families, Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, announced today.

“I am pleased that the Republican Legislature and the administration agreed on a budget that places vital importance on education and the environment,” McManus, chair of the Senate Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittees, said. “Thanks to this budget, Michigan residents will benefit from cleaner waters, pristine parks and funding to help eradicated species that harm our environment.”

Highlights of the Department of Natural Resources conference report include funding for the state’s obligation to local governments for Payments in Lieu of Taxes and substantial funding and resources to help fight the Emerald Ash Borer.

The Department of Environmental Quality report, among other issues, reinstates current year funding for the manufactured housing, recreational housing and septage waste programs and includes appropriations for groundwater inventory and mapping to run a groundwater dispute resolution program.

“This budget reflects the needs of Michigan families and communities,” McManus said. “Thanks to the passage of the DNR budget, local governments can rest assured they will receive their tax payments on time and in a proper fashion to accommodate their operating budgets. And I am pleased to announce funding that will ensure local communities that there will be no disputes over groundwater.”

Among other provisions hammered out by legislative leaders and the governor include:

- Restoring the Merit Scholarship Award so that each student who qualifies will receive the \$2,500 amount,
- Restoring 17 of the 34 deferred road projects that will increase motorist safety and create a viable state infrastructure for the movement of commerce, including M 42 to US 131 in Wexford County,
- Approval of the Driver Responsibility and Claim it Correctly Programs, and
- Maintain funding for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

“It was vital that the Republican Legislature and the administration balance the state’s budget without raising taxes on Michigan families, and I am proud to announce this was done in a fashion that benefits everyone,” McManus said.